

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 138216
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /054 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:MB
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY
-----142313Z 069321 /75

O 142249Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 138216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, UR, US (TOTH, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT'S DAILY NEWS
BRIEFING OF JUNE 14.

2. "Q: JOHN, CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE OR TAKE US
BACK TO YESTERDAY ON WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT, OUR GOVERNMENT,
MAY HAVE DONE IN BEHALF OF TOTH, AND WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT
THE SITUATION?

A: ALL RIGHT, BARRY. FIRST OF ALL, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON
AT ABOUT FOUR, WE PROTESTED THE WEEKEND DETENTION OF
MR. TOTH TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE IN WASHINGTON. THAT
WAS DONE AT THE WORKING LEVEL TO A FIRST SECRETARY OF
THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THIS MORNING WE PROTESTED IN MOSCOW
ON THE SAME MATTER.

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AS YOU KNOW, THE SOVIETS CHARGED AT THAT TIME, AS HAS
BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS I THINK, THAT MR. TOTH HAD
BEEN ENGAGING IN THE COLLECTION OF SECRET INFORMATION.
I WOULD ADD THAT, BASED ON OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS
OF THIS CASE, WE SEE NOTHING IN MR. TOTH'S ACTIVITIES THAT

COULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS

LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTIC STATUS AND ACTIVITIES.

AS WE SAID YESTERDAY, WE DEPLORE THIS ACTION BY THE
SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND REGARD IT AS AN UNWARRANTED
INTERFERENCE IN THE LEGITIMATE WORK OF A JOURNALIST
AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HELSINKI
FINAL ACT." CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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